

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### TRIBUTE TO THE GARY, INDIANA, BRANCH OF THE NAACP

#### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 13, 2006*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to take this time to recognize the members of the Gary, Indiana branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, NAACP. On Monday, October 30, 2006, the Gary NAACP held its 90th anniversary dinner, while also celebrating the 45th Annual Mary White Ovington Freedom Fund Awards at Saint Timothy Community Church's Fellowship Hall in Gary, Indiana.

The NAACP was founded on February 12, 1909, with the mission to end all racial discrimination and to secure the political, economic, and social rights of all African-Americans. As the Nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization, the NAACP has worked successfully with allies of all races who believe in and continue to carry out this mission still today. The Gary NAACP, the largest branch in the State of Indiana, was organized by those who felt there was a need for an organization that would monitor and defend the rights of African-Americans in northwest Indiana. The members of the Gary NAACP, who so selflessly serve the community, share the goals of the national organization. They fight each and every day to combat injustice, discrimination, and unfair treatment in their community.

This year's fundraiser event and anniversary dinner featured Dan Parker, Indiana State Democratic Committee chairman; and Murray Clark, Indiana State Republican Committee chairman, as the evening's keynote speakers. The theme for this year's event was, "Remembering the Past. Preparing for the Future. Voting to make a Difference." The featured speakers addressed the importance of voting while promoting their respective party members.

This year, several honorees were recognized at the event with a special awards presentation. Denise Dillard, State Senator Earline Rogers, the Gary Cultural and Historical Society, Willie Watkins, New Mount Moriah Baptist Church, First African Methodist Episcopal Church, Saint Timothy Community Church, the Gary City Clerk's Office, and Marshanelle Hill were among those being honored with various awards for their service to the community and to the branch.

In addition, the Mary White Ovington Award, the most distinguished award of the evening, was presented to Gary residents Jonathan Comer and Cherrie B. White. This very special award annually recognizes those making the greatest contributions to sustaining civil rights.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending the members of the Gary NAACP for the efforts, activities, and leadership they have championed to improve the quality of life for

all residents of Indiana's First Congressional District. I also ask that you join me in commending the community leaders who, through their unwavering commitment to their community, are so deserving of the special honors bestowed upon them.

### TRIBUTE TO RETIRING BARTON COUNTY OFFICIALS

#### HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 13, 2006*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that a number of officials from Barton County, Missouri, are retiring this year after serving the public for a number of years.

I have had the privilege of representing Barton County in the United States Congress on two occasions. Barton County lies in the southwestern part of the Fourth Congressional District. Its county seat of Lamar is the birthplace of President Harry S. Truman, and the people who live there today personify the same common sense, hard working, Show-Me State values that made President Truman an outstanding president and global leader. I am honored to represent these fine Missourians in the United States Congress and to have had the privilege to work with many of these outstanding public officials.

Presiding Commissioner Gerald Miller was born in Idaho but moved to Missouri as a child. He graduated from Lamar High School in 1958 and has been active in the community since that time. Since 1999, Mr. Miller has served as Presiding Commissioner and has worked tirelessly to improve the communities he represents. He is a member of the Lamar Metro Club, the Abou Ben Adhem Shrine, and the Lamar Masonic Lodge. He is a successful businessman who is married to Brenda Rinehart and has two sons, Mark and Matt.

County Clerk Bonda Rawlings is a lifelong resident of Barton County. She graduated from Lamar High School in 1961 and has dedicated much of her life to bettering her community. Since 1983, she has served as the Barton County Clerk and has been a leader in the State Association of County Clerks, serving as president in 1996. While working full time, she is also a member of the Barton County Chamber of Commerce, the Lamar Art League, the Barton County Historical Society, the Truman Area Transportation System, and the Lamar High School Booster Club. In all of these organizations, Mrs. Rawlings has held a leadership position. Bonda is married to Bill Rawlings and has two sons, Stan and Steve.

Circuit Clerk Jerry Moyer has spent his adult life serving Barton County and is a graduate of Golden City High School. In 1976, he graduated from the College of the Ozarks with a degree in criminal justice administration. Mr. Moyer has served as the Clerk of the Circuit Court in Barton County since 1983 and has been a leader among his colleagues, serving

as president of the Circuit Clerk and Record-ers Association in 1994. Mr. Moyer previously served as Deputy Sheriff, a police officer, and a Deputy Juvenile Officer. He is active in the First Assembly of God Church, the Lamar Rotary Club, and the Freedom Singers gospel choir. Jerry Moyer is married to Jena Moyer and has a daughter named Tiffany.

Recorder of Deeds Jean Keithly has lived in Barton County all her life and is a graduate of Lamar High School. From 1984 to 2003, she served as the Deputy Recorder of Deeds in Barton County. In 2003, she became the first elected Recorder of Deeds in Barton County since 1935, when the office had been combined with the Circuit Clerk's office. Mrs. Keithly has been an active member of the Recorder's Association of Missouri for 22 years. She is a long-time member of the Hopewell Cumberland Presbyterian Church and has been an outstanding charitable volunteer. Mrs. Keithly is married to Bob Keithly and has two children, Michael and Teresa.

Deputy Assessor Ona Mullinax has lived in Golden City, Missouri, for the past 41 years and has worked at the Barton County Courthouse since 1983. Throughout her tenure, she has capably worked through many changes within her office and was especially instrumental in assigning emergency 911 addresses to rural Barton County homes. In 1998, Mrs. Mullinax received the Employee of the Year award, which was presented by the Lamar Rotary Club. She and her husband, Rusty, have a shared family of seven children and ten grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, these five individuals represent the outstanding Missourians who live and work within Missouri's Fourth Congressional District. As they each prepare to spend time with their families and enjoy retirement, I know that my colleagues will join me in wishing them well.

### HONORING MR. TOM BENSON, RECIPIENT OF THE CHARLES E. PIPER AWARD

#### HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 13, 2006*

Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Tom Benson, recipient of the 2006 Charles E. Piper Award for exceptional business achievement. Mr. Benson is currently the owner of the World's Largest Laundromat in Berwyn, IL and also serves as president of the Berwyn Development Corporation. His outstanding leadership, receiving both local and national acclamation, has greatly impacted the local community and its businesses.

Since 1999, Benson has owned the World's Largest Laundromat—a business that is technologically innovative and community centered. After a devastating fire in 2004, he rebuilt the facility and powered it with state-of-the-art solar energy, which significantly saves financial and energy resources. The World's

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Largest Laundromat is as an exceptional model of a cost-effective, energy conserving business—the best of both worlds.

Tom Benson's resourcefulness and visionary outlook extends to the social atmosphere of his laundromat as well. Aside from a spacious interior and 15 flat-screen TVs, the facility offers free wireless access, free pizza on Wednesday nights, and hosts many special events. Additionally, the World's Largest Laundromat has a reputation for promoting community programs that encourage education. One program, Read to Ride, awards bikes to children who read books during the summer.

On November 4, 2006, Benson was presented with the Charles E. Piper Award for his efforts and positive influence on the Berwyn business community. It is my privilege and pleasure to congratulate Mr. Benson on this award and acknowledge his contributions to the community. His unique approach, dedication, and determination serve as an inspiration to the business community, as well as all citizens.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO CHARLES WILLIAMSON

#### HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 13, 2006*

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Charles H.K. Williamson, a long-time educator and winner of the Carnegie Foundation's 2006 Professor of the Year Award for New York State.

Professor Williamson, during his 16 year tenure in the School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at Cornell University, has impacted countless individuals, from undergraduates to Ph.D. candidates to fellow professors. As a colleague states, "Professor Williamson is the most creative and talented educator I have encountered . . . he has no equal on our faculty in integrating research into teaching and teaching into research."

It seems fitting that Professor Williamson began his teaching career among royalty, tutoring Prince Pavlos of Greece before leaving London to emigrate to Pasadena, California, and Caltech in 1984. In 1990, he found himself an assistant professor at Cornell, apprehensively standing in front of 100 students in a thermodynamics class. "I remember coming out of that first class on a high," he recalls. "I realized that the students really want to learn and are eager to know that the teacher genuinely wants the same thing."

From that point on, Professor Williamson has been a trailblazer, pioneering new approaches to lecturing. His classes are unpredictable but always educational, using anything from footlong smoke rings to Beatles albums to jet engines to demonstrate the principles of thermodynamics and fluid mechanics.

Professor Williamson's unique teaching methods, combined with his love of the subject, touches students in a way that educators seldom do. His student evaluation scores are by far the best in his department and among the highest in the university: His average over 16 years at Cornell is 4.57 out of 5, an unequaled level of consistency and excellence.

In addition to being an entertaining lecturer, Professor Williamson is also a true mentor to

students, inspiring and supporting them throughout their education, even attending student sporting events. "Without the confidence and skills I learned from Professor Williamson, I never would have . . . received a doctorate in plasma physics," a former advisee recounts.

Professor Williamson is an inspiration to us all, an individual who truly makes a difference in the lives of those around him. I am honored to congratulate him on receiving the Carnegie Foundation's 2006 Professor of the Year Award.

#### TRIBUTE TO MR. JOHN SELESKY

#### HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 13, 2006*

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents who has distinguished himself through service to his country, his State and his community. Mr. John Selesky has been selected as "Ogemaw County Veteran of the Year" by the Ogemaw County Veterans Alliance. Mr. Selesky is truly deserving of this unique honor.

Mr. Selesky enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps as an Aviation Cadet in 1942. He was trained in Oxnard, California, and Roswell Army Airfield. After flight training, Mr. Selesky was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Air Corps.

In 1943, Mr. Selesky left on a night flight at 11 p.m. After takeoff, Mr. Selesky's plane underwent engine failure causing him to undergo a forced landing at the end of the runway.

Injured, Mr. Selesky walked back to the runway and then back to the flight line. The staff in the flight office called the base hospital, which dispatched an ambulance. Mr. Selesky awoke on an operating table where surgeons were sewing up cuts on his head and face. Sadly, Mr. Selesky lost his left eye in the accident.

After being discharged from the Army in 1943, Mr. Selesky returned home to Grayling, Michigan. A member of the greatest generation, Mr. Selesky did not take much time to rest after his discharge. Instead, he almost immediately went back to work in the family store. He also started a family of his own. Ultimately, Mr. Selesky and his wife, Virginia, would have five children, John, Jr., Verna, Barbara, Jeffery and Mike.

After purchasing a small farm, Mr. Selesky went back to serving his state and his country by joining the Conservation Department as a Forest Fire Tower Lookout out of the Mio District Office in Mio, Michigan. In 1957, Mr. Selesky was promoted to Conservation Foreman and supervised a prison inmate labor crew at the Southern Michigan State Forest Nursery near Brighton, Michigan.

In 1963, the State of Michigan eliminated the Fire Tower Fire Watch system and began using aircraft for fire detection. With his military flying experience and additional flight time he had accrued thanks to the GI Bill of Rights, Mr. Selesky was promoted to District Pilot at the Mio District Office. Mr. Selesky piloted one of only four planes used by the State of Michigan. In 1980, Mr. Selesky retired after 29 years of service as an employee in the State of Michigan having served as Conservation Foreman and as a pilot.

Mr. Speaker, with our brave men and women deployed abroad, it is more important than ever that all of us observe Veteran's Day. By honoring past heroes, we salute those who serve today. With that in mind, I ask that all of my colleagues join me in saluting Mr. Selesky for his service and in congratulating him for being awarded Ogemaw County Veteran of the Year.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE ASIAN-AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

#### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 13, 2006*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with sincere admiration that I recognize the Asian-American Medical Association, which hosted the 30th Annual Asian-American Charity Ball on Saturday, November 4, 2006, at the Avalon Manor in Hobart, Indiana. Each year, the Asian-American Medical Association pays tribute to prominent, outstanding citizens for their contributions to the community. In recognition of their efforts, individuals are honored at this annual banquet and are awarded the prestigious Crystal Globe Award.

The Asian-American Medical Association has always been a great asset to Northwest Indiana. Its members have selflessly dedicated themselves to providing quality medical service to the residents of Indiana's First Congressional District, and they have always demonstrated exemplary service through their many cultural, scholastic, and charitable endeavors.

At this year's charity ball, the Asian-American Medical Association presented Surjit S. Patheja, M.D., with the Crystal Globe Award. Dr. Patheja was born in Pakistan in 1947 and graduated from Rangoon University Medical College in 1959. He practiced medicine in Burma for several years until immigrating to the United States in June 1964. After practicing medicine in locations such as Connecticut, New York, and Baltimore, Maryland, Dr. Patheja relocated to Northwest Indiana, where he has resided for the past 35 years. Although now retired from his practice, Dr. Patheja, board certified in Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, has been an invaluable member of the medical community since his arrival in Northwest Indiana, even serving as President of the Porter County Medical Society and the Tenth District Medical Society. Aside from the many accolades he has earned in the area of medicine, Dr. Patheja has also been instrumental in establishing scholarships and endowments for young adults. As if these accomplishments were not impressive enough, Dr. Patheja has always remained an active member of the community, donating his time through membership in several clubs and associations, including the Valparaiso Rotary Club, the Sikh Religious Society of Chicago, the Indian Medical Association of Northwest Indiana, and, of course, the Asian-American Medical Society. He is also a member of the American College of Radiology and the Radiological Society of North America.

Although Dr. Patheja has devoted so much of his time to medicine and to the Northwest Indiana community, he has always made a special point of sharing as much time as possible with his loving wife of 61 years, Mindy,